

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 146

Introduced by Assembly Member Lara

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Beth Gaines, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Jeffries, Jones, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

April 23, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 146—Relative to Cinco de Mayo Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 146, as amended, Lara. Cinco de Mayo Week.

This measure would proclaim May 1 through May 7, 2012, as Cinco de Mayo Week, and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is
- 2 memorialized as a significant date in the history of California and
- 3 Mexico in recognition of the Latinos of California who offered

1 their support and risked their lives to defend freedom and
2 democracy in both the United States and Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the American Civil War,
4 Latinos in California showed their support for the institutions of
5 freedom and democracy by joining the forces of the United States
6 Army, Cavalry, and Navy, risking their lives to defend free
7 institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to join the Armed Forces
9 of the Union, freely offered their support for United States
10 President Abraham Lincoln; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Civil War, making it impossible
12 for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an
13 opportunity for the Emperor of the French, Napoléon III, to
14 establish a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy
15 democratic institutions that derive their power from the consent
16 of the governed; and

17 WHEREAS, Latinos, including Californios, also offered their
18 support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and
19 democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister
20 republic; and

21 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to
22 physically defend free institutions, freely offered their support to
23 President Benito Juarez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas
24 Mejicanas within California to raise funds that were sent every
25 month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that
26 country; and

27 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo serves to remind us that the
28 foundation of any nation and our state is in its people, in their spirit
29 and courage in the face of adversity, in the strength of their drive
30 to achieve self-determination, and in their willingness to sacrifice
31 even life itself in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

32 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on
33 the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at
34 Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here
35 in California; and

36 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and
37 California include contributions to all facets of our community;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, Latino voters continue to go to the polls in record
40 numbers and influence the entrance of newly elected Latino public

1 officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties and issues
2 ranging from affordable housing, investing in our children, ensuring
3 that higher education is affordable and accessible, creating good
4 paying jobs for working families, and improving the overall quality
5 of life for all Californians; and

6 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to our culture
7 and society through their many achievements in music, food, dance,
8 poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports, and across a
9 broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize
11 and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and
12 dedication to California and the United States' economy and
13 cultural life with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients
14 are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the
15 wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment
16 of California, the United States, and the world; and

17 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers
18 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working
19 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

20 WHEREAS, Latino entrepreneurs in the United States are the
21 fastest growing group of business owners in our economy; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges all Californians to
25 join in celebrating Cinco de Mayo, the historic day to honor the
26 brave spirit of Latinos from California who defended freedom and
27 democracy in the United States during the Civil War and in Mexico
28 during the French Intervention, and the Latino noncombatants who
29 freely gave their votes and resources to defend free institutions,
30 and the Latinos of California who fought to defend the freedom
31 of the United States in every armed conflict since the Spanish
32 American War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan;
33 and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares May 1 through May 7,
35 2012, as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That special mention be made that this year is the
37 150th anniversary of the Battle of Puebla; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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